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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/927,281 | 08/10/2001 | Sergey Fedorovich Golovashchenko | 200-1213 | 5317 |

28549 7590 05/18/2006

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| EXAMINER |
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PETERSON, KENNETH E

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3724

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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09-927-281

EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER

060418

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

1. The reply filed on 03 April 06 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

In the letter mailed 03 March 06, Examiner noted that it was not clear how certain claims could stand or fall together. In response to this Appellant has amended the appeal brief, but has solved only some of the problems. The only remaining problem is that claims 3 and 12 have been placed together under their own subheading for all rejections, which means that they stand or fall together. However, they cannot stand or fall together because there is two-way distinctness between the claims. Claim 3 requires that the support element is moveable perpendicular to the upper surface (from parent claim 1), but this feature is not found in claim 12. Conversely, claim 12 positively claims the method step of cutting a blank, whereas claim 3 mentions a blank but is not limited to cutting blanks. The device of claims 3 could be employed to cut finished products instead, such as circuit boards or car panels. Because of this two-way distinctness, it is not clear which claim should be considered and which claim should fall therewith.

If Appellant would like to avoid this problem in the future, the easiest solution is to not mention the dependent claims at all in the argument section, and they will automatically stand or fall with their parent claims.

The period of response continues to run from the mailing of the previous letter (03 March 06).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ken Peterson whose telephone number is 571-272-4512. The examiner can normally be reached Mon-Thurs, 7:30AM-5PM

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KP
18 April 06


KENNETH E. PETERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER